



## **Summary of EPA Surface Water Sampling Results to Date**

### **Gold King Mine Blowout**

Updated August 7, 2015

EPA initiated a sampling effort on August 5, 2015, to assess the impacts of the blowout at the Gold King Mine near Silverton, CO. Surface water quality samples were collected from 9 locations (see Attachment 1). 2 of these locations were on Cement Creek and 7 of these were on the Animas River. These locations were selected based on the fact that an historical dataset already exists at these locations and they will serve thus as good indicators of conditions before, during and after the event. This report provides a summary of the sampling results that EPA has received to date.

The samples were analyzed for dissolved phase metals. Cadmium, copper, lead, manganese and zinc were selected for summary in this report because historical data from the Gold King Mine indicates that these metals are good indicators of potential impacts to ecological and human health at this site. The data shows that concentrations of metals increased as the plume moved downstream and that these concentrations decreased towards baseline conditions.

EPA will continue to collect monitoring data and expects subsequent sampling events to show decreasing concentrations of contaminants as the tailing edge of the plume moves downstream.

### **INITIAL vs FINAL**

EPA receives INITIAL results from its laboratory 1-2 days after the samples are collected. These INITIAL results are designated as FINAL once they have been validated. This validation process usually takes 7-10 days. EPA is releasing INITIAL data to the public but it is important to note that results are sometimes changed during the validation process.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1: Sampling Locations  
Attachment 2: Trends and Milestones

## Attachment 1: EPA Sampling Locations



## Attachment 2: Trends





